

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-14 (Canceled)

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A system for identifying service abuse, comprising:

a plurality of server computers each adapted to receive an event and to create an event packet in response to the event;

a cluster host adapted to receive a plurality of event packets from at least a portion of the plurality of server computers and to update a master screening table in response to the plurality of event packets,

wherein the cluster host is further adapted to communicate a local screening table comprising at least a portion of the master screening table to each of the plurality of server computers, and each of the plurality of server computers is adapted to:

receive the local screening table from the cluster host;

receive an event requesting a service;

create an event identification associated with the event;

select a table entry from a plurality of table entries in the local screening table as a selected table entry, wherein the selected table entry advances cyclically through the local screening table, and the selected table entry advances to a next entry of the local screening table in response to the event identification not being present in the local screening table;

increment a first count value associated with a first table entry of the plurality of table entries in the local screening table in response to the event identification matching an event identification associated with the first table entry;

decrement a second count value associated with the selected table entry of the plurality of table entries in response to the event identification not being present in the local screening table ~~failing to match an event identification associated with the selected table entry;~~

replace the selected table entry with the event identification associated with the received event in response to the second count value equaling a predetermined value; and

determine a metric value for the event from the local screening table, the metric value indicating that the event is an abusive request.

Claim 16 (Original): The system of claim 15, wherein the local screening table is a copy of the master screening table.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 15, wherein each event packet includes an event identification associated with an event.

Claim 18 (Original): The system of claim 17, wherein the event identification corresponds with the identity of a user.

Claim 19 (Original): The system of claim 18, wherein the event identification includes an IP address.

Claim 20 (Original): The system of claim 18, wherein the event identification includes a user identification.

Claim 21 (Original): The system of claim 17, wherein the event identification corresponds with a content value included in the event.

Claim 22 (Original): The system of claim 21 wherein the content value includes at least a portion of a message.

Claim 23 (Original): The system of claim 21, wherein the content value includes at least a portion of a URL.

Claim 24 (Original): The system of claim 21, wherein the content value is a hash of the content value included in the event.

Claim 25 (Original): The system of claim 15, wherein the cluster host is further adapted to determine a metric value for an entry of the master screening table, the metric indicating that the entry of the master screening table corresponds to an abusive request.

Claim 26 (Original): The system of claim 25, wherein the cluster host is further adapted to set a block value associated with the entry in response to the metric value.

Claim 27 (Original): The system of claim 25, wherein the cluster host is adapted to determine an average metric value from the metric value and a set of previous metric values and to set a block value associated with the entry in response to the average metric value.

Claim 28 (Original): The system of claim 15, wherein the cluster host is adapted to determine a first sub-metric value from the entry, to determine a second sub-metric value from an entry of a second master screening table, and to determine the metric value from a weighted combination of the first and second sub-metric values.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 15, wherein the predetermined value is zero.

Claims 30-45 (Canceled)

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 15, wherein each of the plurality of server computers is further adapted to select a second table entry as a new selected table entry in response to receiving the event.

Claim 47 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 15, wherein each of the plurality of server computers is further adapted to select a second table entry as a new selected table entry in response to the event identification failing to match an event identification associated with the selected-table entry.

Claim 48 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 15, wherein each of the plurality of server computers is further adapted to disregard the event in response to the metric value crossing a threshold value.

Claim 49 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 15, wherein each of the plurality of server computers is further adapted to terminate a connection used to receive the event in response to the metric value crossing a threshold value.

Claim 50 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 15, wherein each of the plurality of server computers is further adapted to return an error message in response to the event in response to the metric value crossing a threshold value.

Claim 51 (New): The system of claim 15, wherein the selected entry advances to a next entry of the local screening table in response to the event identification matching the event identification associated with the first table entry.